

**School Wellness Summit – Solvang**

October 3rd, 2023

# California Department of Food & Agriculture **CA Farm to School Program**



# What is Farm to School?

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## Farm to School Programs Combine:

- **California Food Procurement**
- **Education that connects classrooms, cafeterias, and outdoor learning spaces (gardens/farms/etc.)**
- **Experiential learning with the community (gardens, field trips, guest teachers, etc.)**



# CDFA CA Farm to School Program

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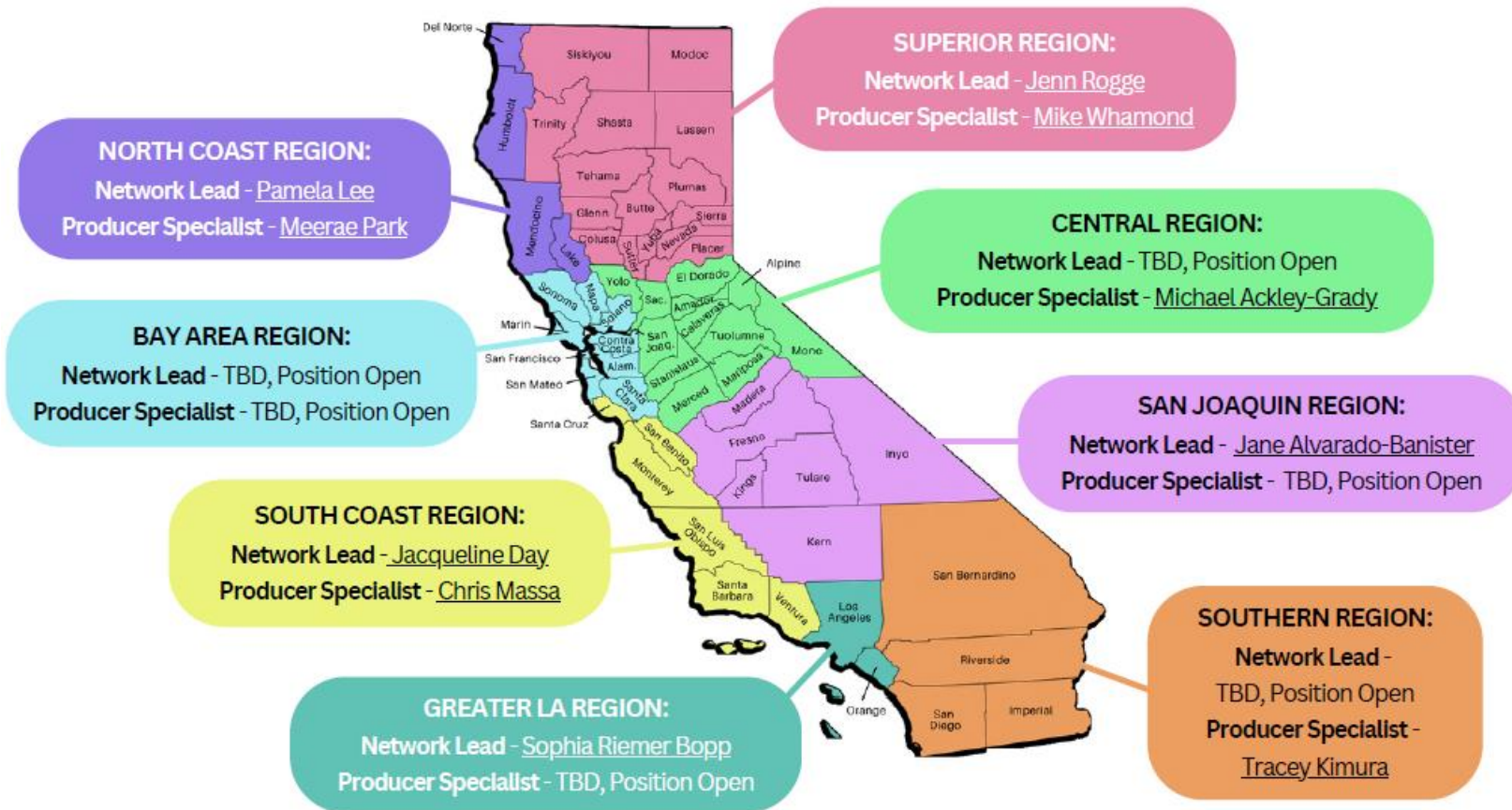
## What we do:

- **Coordinate CA Farm to School Network + regional networks**
- **Administer CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program**
- **Connect CA Farmers/Producers & Schools**
- **Improve Communications Statewide**

<https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/CaFarmtoSchoolProgram.htm>



# Meet the Team



## STATEWIDE STAFF:

Farm to School Program Manager -  
[Nick Anicich](#)

Farm to School Special Projects Coordinator -  
[Rachel Finkes](#)

Farm to School Network Lead -  
[Amy Garfinkel](#)



# Regional Farm to School: Farm to School Network Leads



**Sophia Riemer Bopp**  
Greater LA

LA, Orange, San Bernardino  
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**Jacqueline Day**  
South Coast

Santa Cruz, San Benito,  
Monterey, San Luis Obispo,  
Santa Barbara, Ventura  
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Support F2S  
Grantees

Share  
Resources,  
Funding,  
Partners

Host  
Regional  
Events

Building  
Regional  
F2S  
Networks





# Regional Farm to School: Producer Engagement Specialist



**Tracey Kimura**  
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LA, Orange, San Bernardino  
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**Chris Massa**  
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Support F2S  
Grantees

Value Chain  
Coordination

Host  
Regional  
Events

Build  
Relationships  
with  
Producers



# CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program

## PROGRAM GOAL:

Award competitive grants to support projects that cultivate equity, nurture students, build climate resilience, and create scalable and sustainable change across the school food system



2021

*\$8.5 million  
awarded to  
60 Projects*

2022

*\$25.5 million  
awarded to  
120 Projects*

2023

*\$60 million -  
Coming Soon!*

## WHO DOES IT FUND?

- Track 1: K-12
- Track 2: Partnerships
- Track 3: Early Care & Education (ECE)
- Track 4: Producers



# Track 1 2022 Projects Include

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- **School Gardens**
- **Youth Action Councils**
- **Agroecology and Environmental Resiliency Curricula**
- **Consulting for Local Procurement Roadmap**
- **Farm Field Trips, Farmer's Market Days, and School Assemblies**





# Tips For a Strong Grant

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- ✓ **Include Both Local Procurement and Education**  
*Climate smart agriculture practices, socially disadvantaged, small to midsize Standards-aligned, hands-on food education opportunities for students*
- ✓ **Partnerships in Place With Producers**  
*Climate smart agriculture practices, socially disadvantaged, small to midsize*
- ✓ **Clearly Make the Case For Project Need**  
*Food insecurity rate, obesity rate, natural disasters, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Healthy Places Index, historical & systemic injustices*
- ✓ **Cultivate Interdepartmental Partnerships for a Strong FTS Team**  
*Nutrition services, administration, education*



# CA Farm to School Network: statewide activities



**Quarterly Community of Practice call**



**Monthly e-newsletter**



**Instagram:**  
[@cafarmtoschool](https://www.instagram.com/cafarmtoschool)



**Biennial conference  
10/24-10/25**

e-newsletter sign-up link: <https://eepurl.com/hnhSqj>



**Thank you!**

